an>

Title: Regarding providing safety and running the trains on time.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to request the Government to redress the grievances of the railway passengers in the country. Recent incidents of robbery, damaged coaches, delayed services and unexpected cancellation of trains has made train journey a nightmare. Due to lack of sufficient number of RPF personnel loot gangs are fearlessly wandering through express trains. There were two robberies reported in the Kerala Express in this month only. Sudden spurt in the number of robberies is alarming. As per reports, most of the robberies have taken place between 9 pm and midnight. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to gear up the night patrolling of the RPF personnel in long distance trains.

Unexpected cancellation of trains has become a regular practice in the Indian Railways. In festival seasons, it creates a lot of panic among passengers. It should be noted that the Government has SMS mechanism to intimate railway related information. However, due to the irresponsible attitude of the authorities, passengers are getting information about train cancellation only after they reach the railway station. These types of unfortunate incidents should be avoided by disseminating the information regarding cancellation through SMS.

Another concern relating to train journey is delayed services. Sometimes, long distance trains run eight to ten hours late. Average travel time to Kerala bound train is 50 hours. Therefore, taking eight to ten hours more for a journey is a cumbersome experience. Coaches of most of the Kerala bound trains are damaged. During rainy season, it is difficult to travel in these coaches.

In addition to this problem, rat menace in the coaches also creates a lot of troubles to the passengers.

Therefore, I request the Government to take favourable action in matters related to the railway passengers in the country.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Abhijit Mukherjee, Adv. Joice George, Shri P.K. Biju, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri Jose K. Mani and Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Anto Antony.